

Typical scene on the languid Jordan.



A Christian baptism in the Jordan.

## *Palestine as Seen in This Day*

AT CHRISTMAS and Easter the land of Palestine has peculiar interest for all the world. It was the modest stage on which most epochal events transpired. Its mountains have a glory and its rivers a sanctity all their own, while its cities are part of the world's most ancient story.

The photograph of the River Jordan, given herewith, shows it to be anything but a noble stream, a narrow winding ditch traversing a barren land. It was natural in a country so scarce of water that a stream like the Jordan should become important. One part of prophecy concerning Palestine as the Jews' ultimate land is that water shall be plentiful there, the indications being that convulsions of the earth will release water supplies in very generous quantities. It is also indicated that the conformation of the country will change so that Jerusalem may become a seaport.

The view here given of the Jordan serves to show the reader what he himself would see today. One of the most historic streams in the world, the scene of the Lord's baptism and symbolic throughout religious poetry as the River of Death, it is not much to look at, although, when viewed from a hill-top, as Moses viewed the Promised Land, it is seen that about the only extensive greenery to be found in the land is that which fringes this stream.

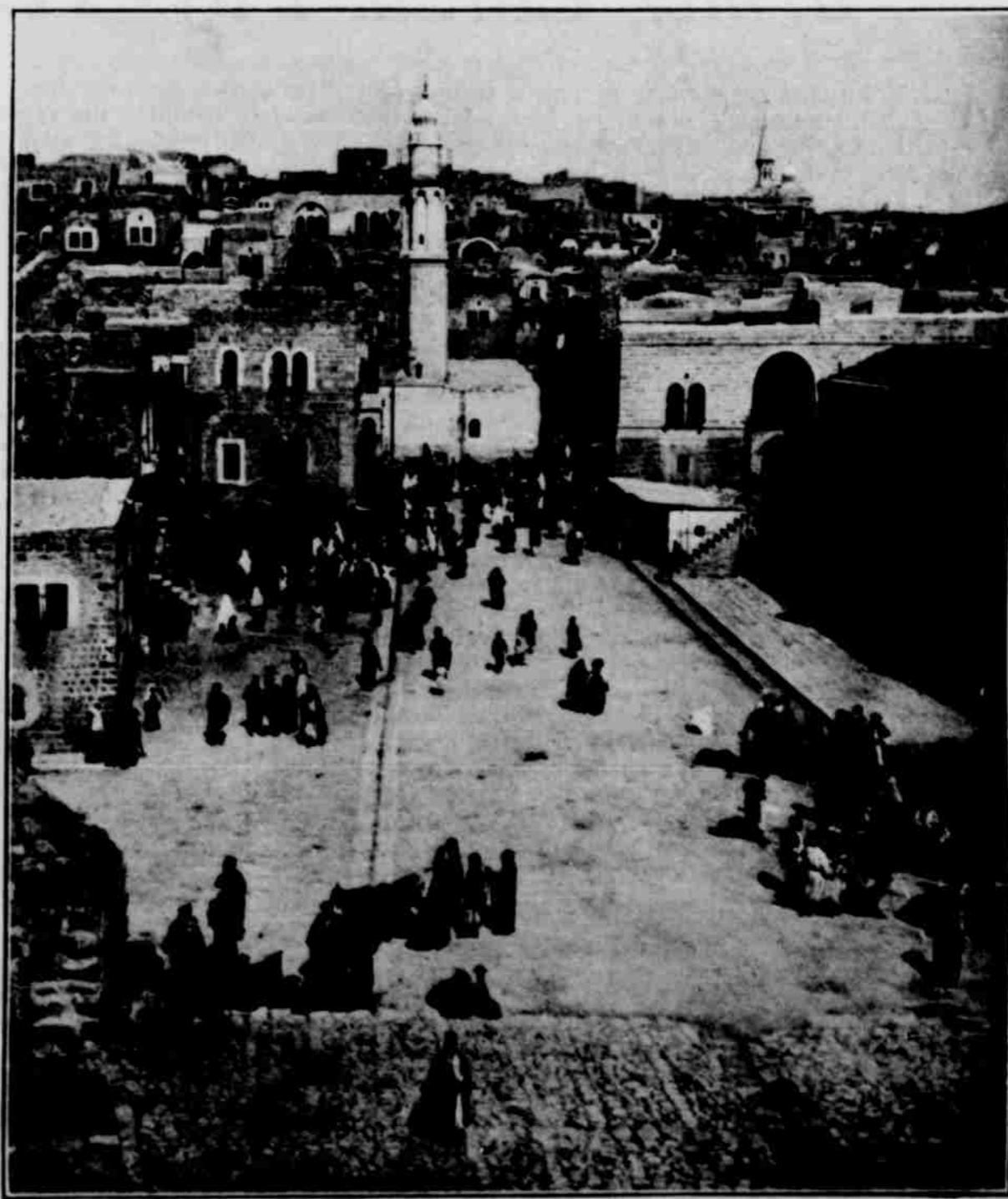
Its banks are overhung with low trees and the whole scene is heavy with heat. The Jordan flows with true Oriental lassitude toward the Dead Sea. A second Jordan picture shows a baptism occurring in its waters, the Mohammedan camel drivers looking listlessly on.

Another photograph shows a view in Dochan and gives an impression of the solitariness and barrenness of the land. The circular stone well-mouth is supposed to mark the pit in which Joseph was held before being sold into slavery by his brethren. The hill horizon is very lonely, and the stony foreground bespeaks the inhospitality of the soil.

A bazaar in Bethlehem is shown in another picture. Bethlehem is one of the most attractive of Palestinian cities. Its situation is pleasant and it has always been fortunate in the class of residents it attracted. The view shows laden camels resting on the stone pavement of the central square, waiting for buyers to reduce their loads of merchandise. The town square is very modern, as you will see, and the traditional "places" of Christian history are not far distant. As you look over the town, the eye is not relieved by a single tree—it is one dead mass of stone on which the sun beats down. The cobblestones of the street enhance the impression.



Dochan Pit into which it is claimed Joseph was thrown.



Bazaar in the streets of Bethlehem.